

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-16 received by the International Bureau on 30 August 2003 and published in International Application, PCT/IB/2002005253.

Please add new claims 17-28 as follows.

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (New) A method for producing a transgenic indica rice varieties comprising:

- (a) Constructing an expression vector for plant transformation that comprises a promoter, a superoxide dismutase (SOD) gene derived from *Nicotiana plumbaginifolia L.*, and a transit peptide;
- (b) Transferring the vector constructed in step (a) to a transformant;
- (c) Co-culturing the transformant of step (b) with the plant tissue; and
- (d) Regenerating the transformed tissue into a mature transgenic plant.

18. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein, the said transit peptide is a Pea ribulose-1-5-biphosphate carboxylase gene.

19. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein, the said promoter is a CvMV promoter.

20. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein, the terminator used is the NOS terminator.

21. (New) A method of conferring increased tolerance to environmental stress in the rice plants, by transforming cells of the said plant with second DNA sequence encoding a transit peptide to facilitate the transportation of said MnSOD gene directed to a plant cell organelle.

22. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein, the said plant cell organelle is a chloroplast.

23. (New) A transgenic rice variety produced by the method according to claim 17, that produces high levels of superoxide dismutase (SOD)..
24. (New) The transgenic rice variety according to claim 23, specifically, Godavari 8 and Salween 2., that produces high levels of superoxide dismutase (SOD).
25. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein, the transgenic plants confer increased yield under environmental stress conditions, increased tolerance to pathogen attack and play a significant role in the food industry by increasing the shelf life of rice.
26. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein, the transgenic plants confer increased yield under environmental stress conditions, increased tolerance to pathogen attack and play a significant role in the food industry by increasing the shelf life of rice.
27. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein, the transgenic plants confer increased yield under environmental stress conditions, increased tolerance to pathogen attack and play a significant role in the food industry by increasing the shelf life of rice.
28. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein, the transgenic plants confer increased yield under environmental stress conditions, increased tolerance to pathogen attack and play a significant role in the food industry by increasing the shelf life of rice.